in terms of actual amount and also in terms of percentage of G.N.P.;

(b) whether Government have made any sample survey of tax evasion; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether according to 'Aspects of black money in India', a study conducted by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy the extent of tax evasion has been indicated; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) whether the recommendation of the above Institute namely 'Rationalisation of major taxes to prevent large scale smuggling of synthetic fabrics' is being implemented; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) and (b). There is no reliable estimate of evasion of all the major taxes imposed by the Central Government.

(c) Under certain assumptions the study conducted by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy indicated that the magnitude of black income escaping tax might have ranged between Rs. 31,584 crores and Rs. 36,786 crores in 1983-84; and

(d) No such recommendation is to be found in this study.

Erosion of Right Bank of Ganga below Farakka

141. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government has urged the Centre to immediately take up the Rs. 450 crore scheme to stall erosion of the right bank of the Ganga below Farakka; and

(b) if so, what action the Central Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) The Committee set up by the Government of West Bengal studied the problem of erosion along Ganga river and submitted its recommendations in January, 1980 and the cost of protection works were estimated to be roughly Rs. 294 crores. The Government of West Bengal prepared a scheme for protecting a total length of about 6.6 kms. in three different critical and vulnerable reaches. The Ganga Flood Control Commission examined this scheme and estimated its cost to be Rs. 11.64 crores. The State Government proposed that the cost of this scheme should be shared by Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Surface Transport also. The Ganga Flood Control Commission has advised the State Government to update the project proposals and the cost estimate in the light of the behaviour of the river during the floods of the recent years. The response of the State Government is still awaited.

Farakka Barrage Project authorities under Ministry of Water Resources have been executing protective works on the Ganga river in the vicinity of project structures, considered necessary from time to time, for the safety of these structures. So far an amount of about Rs. 4 crores has been spent. Ministry of Railways also has executed some works on the bank of Ganga considered essential from the consideration of safety to railway track.

Winding up of National Jute Manufacturers' Corporation

142. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to wind up the National Jute Manufacturers' Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Devaluation of Rupee

143. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI RASHEED MASOOD:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY:
SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI AJIT SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the latest report of the World Bank has urged India to devalue the rupee against leading currencies;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been a steep fall in the value of rupee against leading currencies for the last five years; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and steps taken to arrest the fall in rupee value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The exchange rate of the rupee is fixed with reference to the daily exchange rate movement of suitably weighed basket of currencies mainly of countries which are India's major trading partners. Thus in a regime of floating exchange rates, the value of rupee moves upward or downward depending on fluctuations in other currencies in the basket.

The movement in the value of Indian Rupee *vis-a-vis* some major international currencies for the last 5 years is indicated in the statement placed below.

MOVEMENT IN THE VALUE OF INDIAN RUPEE VIS-A-VIS MAJOR FOREIGN CURRENCIES

(Rs. Per Unit of Foreign Currency/SDR)

(Annual Averages)

	Currency	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88* (April 1987 January 1988)
1	SDR	10.9406	11.9328	12.9232	15.4472	16.9898
2	U.S. DOLLAR	10.3400	11.8886	12.2349	12.7782	12.9550
3	U.K. POUND	15.4174	14.8668	16.8467	19.0722	21.8295
4	DEUTSCHE MARK	3.9402	3.9877	4.5553	6.2970	7.3361
5	JAPANESE YEN	0.0438	0.0487	0.0562	0.0802	0.0926
6	BELGIAN FRANC	0.1951	0.1994	0.2247	0.3049	0.3526
7	FRENCH FRANC	1.2991	1.3006	1.4908	1.9290	2.1881
8	SWISS FRANC	4.8229	4.7797	5.4688	7.6068	8.8995
9	ITALIAN LIRA	0.0065	0.0065	0.0068	0.0091	0.0101
10	CANADIAN DOLLAR	8.3434	9.0066	8.8892	9.3095	9.8274

*Average of first 10 months.